

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 26, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the unsealing of a criminal complaint charging Lawrence Lester Nixon with possession of child pornography. Nixon appeared today in federal court in San Diego for arraignment before United States Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr.

According to the complaint, between approximately May 13, 2006 and August 6, 2007, Lawrence Lester Nixon possessed images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) became aware of Nixon after they discovered that he had purchased access to at least one child pornography website. A federal search warrant was executed on August 7, 2007, where federal agents seized a computer containing sexually explicit images of children as young as six years of age.

During today’s hearing, the government sought detention based upon danger to the community and risk of flight. The next court date is scheduled for March 28, 2008 at 2:30 p.m., for a bail hearing before Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr.

This case stems from an investigation by the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, whose members include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the El Cajon Police Department.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08MJ0805

LAWRENCE LESTER NIXON

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

Maximum Penalties: 10 years' incarceration, \$250,000 fine, a minimum of 5 years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and registration as a sex offender.

AGENCY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

A complaint itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.